



# Talk of the Town



September 2004

A periodic newsletter to keep the legal community informed about news concerning the Clerk of the Court's Office

## New Juvenile Court facility opens

Over the past several years, the Clerk's Office has not only continued to build better service (with the development of EDMS and many other new programs), but it also has been a part of building better buildings. First, there was



The new Juvenile building, located at 3131 W. Durango (just west of the old Durango Juvenile building) has three floors and 12 electronic courtrooms, including two ceremonial courtrooms.

the completion of the new Customer Service Center (CSC) in 2001 which brought the court records together, increased storage capacity, and provided many other benefits to customers and staff. The CSC building was then followed up in 2002, with the opening of the new Northwest Regional Court Center in Surprise, which expanded court services to the citizens in the Northwest Valley. Now, there is another new building that the office has moved into — the new Durango Juvenile Facility.

Court and county officials officially dedicated this new courthouse on July 12. The new 263,00 square-foot facility includes offices for the Clerk of the Court, Court Administration, Juvenile Probation Court Services, Court Appointed Special Advocate, the Public Defender's Office, the County Attorney's Office, and Court Security. It also includes an expanded state-of-the-art juvenile detention facility. The Clerk's Office is located on the first floor and has areas for a filing counter, payment windows, file maintenance, distribution, appeals, exhibits, and courtroom clerk staff.

## State Rules of Court

The Arizona State Rules of Court are promulgated by the Arizona Supreme Court. Rule 28, Rules of the Supreme Court, governs the procedure for amending the rules of procedure for Arizona courts. Any interested person or entity may petition to amend any court rule. Public comment is provided for, at the discretion of the Supreme Court. Please visit <http://www.supreme.state.az.us/rules/pendrule.htm> to see what current rule changes are pending.

## Publications available on-line

Please go to the Clerk of the Superior Court website at [www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov) under the "News" section to download the following publications:

- The 2004 edition of "Doing Business with the Clerk of the Court."
- The 2002-2003 Annual Report for the Clerk of the Superior Court.

## Passing on some passport news

Effective February 1, 2004, the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs has begun requiring the personal appearance of all minors applying for U.S. passports.

This applies to all regular, official and diplomatic passports for children under



the age of 14, even if the child has previously been issued a passport. Prior to the introduction of this requirement, parents were not routinely required to bring a child under the age of 14 with them when they applied on the child's behalf. Now, when applying for a passport on behalf of a minor under the age of 14, parents are required to have their child present and submit documentation of parental relationship and consent, as well as comply with all other documentation requirements for the issuance of a passport.

The personal appearance requirement for all minors is a further step towards ensuring the integrity of the passport application process. This change will help to verify the identity of minor applicants and aid in the prevention of international child abduction and trafficking.

More information is available at: [http://travel.state.gov/passport\\_services.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html) or by calling the National Passport Information Center.



## Other news and notes

### **Consolidated DUI Center –**

The Clerk's Office was actively involved with the Superior Court in the opening of a new a Consolidated DUI Center on Dec. 8, 2003. The intent of the program is to streamline DUI case processing, reduce time to disposition, reduce pre-trial incarceration time for in-custody defendants, increase the chances of settlements and changes of plea, increase the trial judge's availability for other work, and to create a team approach specializing in DUI cases.

### **Lengthy Trial Fund Filing Fee –**

The Supreme Court implemented the Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund (Admin Order No. 2003-100). The Lengthy Trial Fund filing fee is authorized by A.R.S. §12-115 and \$15.00 and shall be collected on the following superior court filings:

1. Civil complaints
2. Answers to civil complaints
3. Motions to intervene in civil cases

This fee has been imposed on all the above filings made on and after January 1, 2004. The additional fee may be deferred or waived pursuant to A.R.S. §12-302 and -304.

The Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund was created to compensate jurors who serve longer than ten days. The fund allows the court to pay replacement or supplemental wages of up to \$300 per day beginning on the eleventh day of jury service. It also provides that if the juror serves more than ten days, and it is found to be a significant financial hardship for the juror, the court may pay the juror an additional \$40-\$100 per day from the fourth through the tenth day of jury service.

The fund consists of monies collected from an assessment on filings, appearances or clerk fees that began January 1, 2004. The amount of the assessment is at the discretion of the Arizona Supreme Court.

## **Expedited Services now under Family Court**

A cooperative agreement was reached to transfer oversight of the Expedited Services component of the Family Support Center in the Clerk's Office to Family Court Administration, effective July 1, 2004.

This decision was carefully considered and made, as part of an effort to facilitate Family Court goals to improve the coordination of family court-annexed programs and to provide the best possible remedies to the families served by our office and the Court.



It is anticipated that the transfer of Expedited Services will be managed in the least disruptive way possible. The thoughtful collaboration between the Clerk's Office and Family Court administration will result in a reasonably seamless transition with little, if any, distinguishable change.

### **Information about Non IV-D Child Support Cases**

If you have a client who is involved in a non IV-D child support case and the client needs to obtain their ATLAS number, they can obtain this information by calling the Maricopa County STAR Call Center at (602) 506-3762.

## **A number of things to report**

The Clerk of the Superior Court is the official record keeper and fiduciary agent for the Superior Court. Following are some office statistics from the past fiscal year:

### **CASES FILED**

- Criminal Cases - 36,238
- Civil Cases - 33,666
- Family Cases - 32,733
- Juvenile Cases - 16,964
- Probate and Mental Health Cases - 6,727
- Tax Cases - 1,363

### **OTHER OFFICE STATISTICS**

- Exhibits Processed - 124,209
- Images Electronically Scanned - 3,018,809
- Prepared, copied, and distributed paper minute entries - 629,639
- Emailed electronic minute entries - 1,777,206
- Collected \$1,169,339 and distributed \$9,189,976 in restitution monies.

### **Did you know...**

...that the Clerk's Office issues marriage licenses and processes passport applications? During Fiscal Year '02-'03: we issued 22,346 marriage licenses and processed 21,788 passport applications.

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